

REMARKS

Claims 12-25 remain pending. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Schwartz et al (USPN 5,749,874). The Examiner asserts that the reference discloses a cartilage plug (100) having a plurality of ridges (FIG. 11) with a lubricious surface on at least one end (102) as is claimed (9:28-67 and 10:1-6). Applicant respectfully traverses. The at least one end (102) of the plug referenced by the Examiner cannot fairly be characterized as having a "lubricious surface" in view of the disclosure at 9:32-44 which describes element 102 as a "fabric", "porous" and "felt-like" which is selected for its bioabsorbability. Careful review of the entire reference reveals no suggestion that one end of the plug is to have a lubricious surface and consequently, for this reason alone, anticipation is precluded.

Moreover, all pending claims call for ridges to extend about the **periphery** of the **plug**. In stark contrast thereto, the ribs 38 of the Schwartz device as shown in FIG. 11 merely extend about the stem portion of the device which is substantially smaller than the larger head portion of the device. As such, the ribs cannot fairly be characterized as extending about the periphery of the **device** as a whole. This not only precludes them from serving to interlock adjacent repair units as would be desirable in a mosaicplasty application but also positively precludes anticipation of the present invention as claimed.

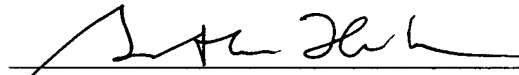
In light of the above remarks, applicants earnestly believe the application to be in condition for allowance and respectfully request that it be passed to issue.

Please charge additional fees to our Deposit Account No. 21-0800.

Respectfully submitted,

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